

FINE WORK OF A. P. V. A.

All Eyes Attracted to Jamestown by Discoveries.

MRS. BAGBY'S REPORT

Letter From Mr. Yonge Will Be Found Particularly Interesting—Entertaining Account of Recent Visit to Island by Richmond Man.

Recent excavation at Jamestown has turned all eyes upon the low lying plot in James River.

Exceedingly interesting facts were brought out in the recent report of Mrs. George W. Bagby, chairman of the Jamestown committee, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. That paper is given here in full, with a most entertaining account of a recent visit to the island by a well known Richmond man.

Mrs. Bagby says: The chairman of the Jamestown committee can with pleasure review a year of work, and valuable work for the association. Before coming to the most important part of this report, I will speak of the change of care-takers which was made April 15th, 1903. Mr. Leal, now our agent at Jamestown, is the right man in the right place, and gives much satisfaction to the committee.

Since the last report to the general association, made November 1st, 1902, the committee has received from gate fees, etc., at Jamestown \$248.25. Of this Mr. Leal has sent in \$185.05 in the five months of his incumbency. This money has been regularly sent to the treasurer, to be placed to the credit of Jamestown. Mr. Leal has also done good work in grave-yard and on grounds generally. Mrs. Lightfoot has been to Jamestown several times, and has had the dwelling house thoroughly repaired, a carriage house and stable built, and two iron gates put up, one at eastern, the other at southern entrance to our grounds. The chairman of this committee is greatly helped by Mrs. Lightfoot and the Williamsburg members of the committee, who are ever ready to work for the association. The whole committee is sensible of the great advantage to the A. P. V. A. of Mr. Yonge's interest in its work, and wishes to acknowledge with many thanks the important aid he has given many times in many ways, and above all, for the skill with which he has discovered what are probably the foundations of the oldest buildings in the English-American colonies. The excavations were begun in the early spring of this year and completed during the summer. I will now read Mr. Yonge's report in full.

At present the most important work before the Jamestown Committee is the protection of these foundations, before decay's effacing fingers shall have completed their destruction. This will be an expensive, but an essential work. We would be reckless to our trust did we allow frost and ice to disintegrate what remains of these old walls. This work of preservation and protection is in charge of Mr. Yonge, who so kindly

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gives the association the benefit of his knowledge and skill.

Before closing, I must beg the association to consider the great and pressing need that the breakwater at Jamestown should be completed. To this end I hope a committee will be appointed to prepare a memorial and petition, to be signed by some of our members in each town and county of the State, and then to be forwarded to our Senators, so they may be impressed with the necessity of bringing this unfinished work to the attention of Congress. I leave the details of this plan to wiser heads than mine.

One more word in behalf of Jamestown. Your committee is in need of money. The care and management of Jamestown are enough for its members

cells were partly filled, are carefully removed, for future use.

To give an idea of the extent of the above foundations that have been uncovered, the area they inclose is about five times that inclosed by the church walls, their extent in linear feet, is about five times as great, and taking into account the excavations of the cellars, the volume of excavation is about seven times as great.

Respectfully submitted,
SAMUEL H. YONGE,
FROM A RECENT VISITOR.

A Richmond gentleman who was recently at Jamestown, writes:
"On last Friday evening, as the old Jamestown people would have expressed



RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT JAMESTOWN REVEAL THE ANCIENT FOUNDATIONS.

to attend to; others of the association should undertake the raising of money to meet all the expenses that must arise if we would preserve our historic site and so improve and prepare Jamestown that we will be ready for the visitors of 1907, our great tri-centennial year.

Respectfully submitted,
PARK C. BAGBY,
Chairman Jamestown Committee,
A. P. V. A.

MR. YONGE'S REPORT
Richmond, Va., June 27, 1903.

Mrs. George W. Bagby, Chairman Jamestown Committee, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities:
Dear Madam,—I respectfully submit the following report of progress made in uncovering the foundations discovered by me at Jamestown in January, 1903.

The work is now sufficiently advanced to confirm the statement made in my report, submitted to you under date of March 3, 1903, viz: That "the row of buildings which the foundations represent, formerly included houses belonging to the Hon. Philip Ludwell, which were situated between the State house and the 'Country House'." I am now prepared to state definitely what is implied in the above quotation, viz: That the State house and 'Country House' covered parts of the above foundations contiguous to the Ludwell houses. There is sufficient evidence to place this statement beyond the realm of conjecture.

The State house building stood at the eastern end of the block of foundations. Its dimensions in plan, from outside to outside of walls, were about 75x25 feet. The 'Country House' joined the Ludwell houses on the west. On account of the incompleteness of the foundations, its exact dimensions cannot be given. It was a much smaller building than the State house.

The dimensions of the Ludwell houses, three in number, were each about 40 feet square. The position of the Ludwell buildings is learned from that of the Ludwell tract, which was located by me from the ancient patent transcripts about one year ago. The eastern end of the foundations is identified as the site of the State house from allusions made to it in several contemporary writings. The general position of the State house is also learned from references to it in other ancient patents.

The buildings represented by the entire block of foundations were probably erected between 1652 and 1655 and are, therefore, probably among the oldest foundations of buildings erected in the English-American colonies.

ARTICLES FOUND.
The work carried on under my instructions by Mr. Leal, the caretaker during the past month in uncovering foundations comprised the removal of brick and earth from a cellar under a part of the westernmost of the Ludwell houses, also in excavating around the walls and in a cellar of what formerly constituted the 'Country House' which, as above explained, is west of, and adjacent to the Ludwell buildings, and removing from the foundations which were uncovered by me in February, 1903, but subsequently covered to protect them from the elements.

When the uncovering of the foundations of the 'Country House' is completed, a more complete description will be submitted.
The depth of the cellar above referred to as being under one of the Ludwell houses is six feet. Its floor is paved with brick. In it were found the following articles: Two small bomb-shells, having diameters of 3 and 4 1/2 inches, respectively, and fragments of other shells; a pair of scissors; hinge, bottles, carved pipe-stem, also fragments of glass and crockery. On the floor of the cellar were found two sheets of melted lead. Three of the steps entering the cellar still remain.

A drawing of the foundation will be furnished hereafter.
The excavation of the cellars has proved to be quite an undertaking, as care had to be exercised not to injure articles which might prove of interest on account of their antiquity, which it was thought might be found.

All brick of fallen walls, with which the

it, two of us whose interest had been excited by the report of Mr. Yonge's recent discoveries on the grounds of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities at Jamestown, embarked for the ancient capital. We were anxious to see the interesting ruins as they were when unearthed, and before the measures had been taken which were absolutely necessary for the preservation of the ancient brick walls. It is a strong evidence of how much Jamestown is now

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in the public mind, that though the day was very cloudy and the wind was rampant, several parties of visitors, amounting in all to some twelve or fifteen, landed at the wharf.

To all who know the limited resources of the association, the work which has been done at Jamestown, and which is in progress is a subject of admiration. The first thing noticed by those who had not been on the island since last spring were the substantial iron gates, which have taken the place of the gap in the fence through which persons coming from the wharf formerly entered the association's grounds. Similar gates have also been placed at the entrance towards Williamsburg.

Conditions in and about the church are much the same. In the spring, except that the work on the tombs and fragments of tombs in the churchyard has been completed. The sides of Dr. James Blair's tomb remain, though the slab containing the epitaph has been gradually broken to pieces and lost. It is the intention of the indefatigable and enthusiastic agent of the A. P. V. A. at Jamestown, Mr. William Leal, to recut the epitaph (which has been preserved by Bishop Meade), and place the new slab in the old place. It should be said here that the association has rarely done a better thing than when it secured the services of Mr. Leal as caretaker at Jamestown. He is the right man in the right place. His enthusiasm for his work and for the property under his charge are contagious, and few of the many prominent men and women who have visited Jamestown since he has been there have left without promising to aid the association in its effort to secure from Congress the completion of that most essential work, the sea wall.

A SKELETON FOUND.

"The most interesting of recent discoveries within the church has been that of the skeleton of a man buried chiefly in the chancel, but lying partly under the 'Knights' Tomb.' On the bones of the shoulders lay pieces of gold lace, and near that of the heel a spur. Hero was evidently some dignitary of colonial days, and it is very possible that the remains are those of Governor Sir George Yeardley himself, to whom the 'Knights' Tomb' has been generally ascribed.

In the fort, to the right as one enters from the church, Mr. Leal has uncovered

a solid brick platform, six feet square. What its original use was is not known. To those who are familiar with Jamestown, however, the chief objects of interest at present are the ruins on the ridge above the fort, which were discovered by Mr. S. H. Yonge, and are now being excavated and arranged for preservation under his charge.

All members of the A. P. V. A. and all others who are interested in the preservation of some of the most important relics of our past have cause to be grateful to Mr. Yonge, who has given so freely his skill as an engineer and the time and labor necessary to preserve these ancient walls, especially of a place so remote as Jamestown. As we stood by the newly excavated foundations and looked at the brick floors, the fireplaces, the brick steps leading into the cellars and the curious well in one of them; as we thought that we were actually looking at a floor where Berkeley and Bacon had walked just before the outbreak of the "Rebellion," a prominent Philadelphian, who was present, said emphatically: "This is the most interesting place in the United States," and added, aptly, that Jamestown was the "Bomby of America."

Massachusetts has done so much for the preservation of her historic sites that we, here in Virginia, are apt to compare Jamestown and Plymouth, very much to the disadvantage of the former. In regard to the preservation of historic relics. But any impartial person who has seen both places must admit that even now many more substantial remains of the early colonial period are to be found at Jamestown than at Plymouth, and when the plans of the A. P. V. A. are fully carried out there will be no comparison on this point. There are not, at least so far as the writer is shown, any remains at Plymouth of seventeenth century buildings. They have there to show only Plymouth Rock. Confessedly not in its original position, and of no absolute certainty of identity. Of course, it is not intended to attempt to detract from the great historic interest of Plymouth, the fort, the military monument and the museum in Pilgrim Hall have no parallel now at Jamestown (perhaps some day they will have), but reference is only made to one class of objects.

WILL EXCEL PLYMOUTH.
Where the A. P. V. A. have been fully carried out not even in monument and museum will it be believed, Plymouth excel Jamestown. These are the words of a man who is fully as "restoring Jamestown." They do include, it is believed, the erection of a building, as much like the old church as possible, over the ruins of the church—a building whose windows shall contain in stained glass memorials of the great events of Virginia's history—perhaps even of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth "in the north ports of Virginia;" of the erection of another building after the fashion of a long and narrow house, whose rooms shall contain a museum and accommodations for visitors to Jamestown, and which shall stand on an old-fashioned formal garden; of the excavation and preservation of all old foundations; of the laying out its grounds in a simple but attractive manner; of the erection of the sea wall; of the erection of a memorial commemorating the generous gift of their land by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Barnley; of the preservation of the Confederate fort and the mounting of several historic guns and its platforms, and the providing full wharf facilities for the growing trade of the island. It is believed, are the comprehensive, yet entirely practicable plans of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Whatever the ladies of that association determine to do will ultimately be done, and all future generations of Americans will say blessed be their names.

MATTER OF UNION

This the interesting feature of Approaching Conference. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) WINSTON-SALEM, Oct. 31.—The coming session of the North Carolina Methodist Protestant Conference, which will convene in this city November 11th, promises to be one of more than usual interest, owing to the fact that delegates to the General Conference, which holds its quadrennial session in Washington, D. C., will be elected at this time, and that these delegates will be instructed by the North Carolina Conference where to stand on the question of church union, which comes up at the next session of the General Conference.

Several meetings have been held by the committees that have this matter of union between the Methodist Protestants, United Brethren and the Congregational Churches in the United States, and have heretofore reported favorably upon it. They have recommended an affiliatory relationship with

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The checks are on exhibit at Rothert & Company's Store, Broad and Fourth Streets, and the money will be turned over to the successful contestants on December 21st.

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interchange of literature, pastors, etc., for the furtherance of the union idea among these denominations till there shall be sessions of the Congregational Council, the M. P. General Conference and the United Brethren Conference to ratify this action of the committees. The Methodist Protestant Church will be the first to pass on this question, as it holds its general conference next May. This union, if consummated, will result in one very strong church, numbering about one million. But before this can be consummated all the denominations in question will have to make some sacrifices as to Church polity.

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